

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 23 January 1992

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Full-time employment rises in December

Strong rises in seasonally adjusted full-time employment for males and females in December 1991 partly offset the large fall in full-time employment recorded between October and November. Increases were also recorded in the number of unemployed persons, the unemployment rate and the participation rate.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons for December 1991 was 7,689,400, an increase since November 1991. Full-time employment rose by almost one per cent (up 52,300 to 5,960,800), with full-time employment for males and females increasing by 26,400 and 25,900 respectively. Part-time employment fell by 13,100 with the number of males employed part-time decreasing by 17,600.

The labour force participation rate rose by 0.3 percentage points to 63.3 per cent, with the female participation rate rising by 0.5 percentage points to 52.1 per cent. The participation rate for males was steady at 74.7 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Un- employed	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total			
	— '000 —					
1991 —					— per cent —	
October	5,998.9	1,687.4	7,686.4	859.9	10.1	63.0
November	5,908.5	1,741.6	7,650.1	900.7	10.5	63.0
December	5,960.8	1,728.5	7,689.4	910.3	10.6	63.3

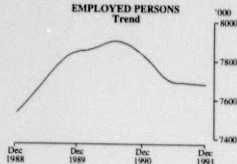
The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons in December 1991 increased by 9,600 and now stands at 910,300. Male unemployment was relatively steady at 547,200. For females, unemployment increased by 9,400 to 363,100, mainly due to an increase of 8,500 in the number of females seeking part-time work.

The unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) for December 1991 was 10.6 per cent, compared with 10.5 per cent in November 1991. For males, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 10.9 per cent, while for females the unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to 10.1 per cent. The trend estimate of the unemployment rate continues to increase.

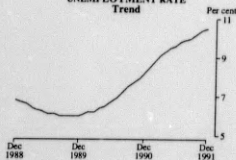
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally adjusted
Per cent

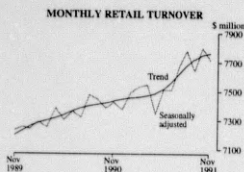
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
1991 —							
October	9.7	10.3	9.6	10.7	11.6	10.7	10.1
November	10.0	11.0	9.9	11.0	11.0	11.7	10.5
December	10.3	11.0	9.9	11.5	10.4	11.0	10.6

EMPLOYED PERSONS
Trend



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Trend





Retail growth loses momentum

A seasonally adjusted fall of 1.1 per cent in turnover in November 1991 appears to have dampened a sustained recovery in the retail sector. The growth in the trend estimates of turnover averaged only 0.4 per cent for the three months ended November 1991, compared with an average 0.7 per cent for the three months ending August 1991. The annual growth rate (November 1991 over November 1990) is 4.4 per cent, an average monthly increase of 0.4 per cent.

This loss of momentum could be due to a temporary slowing of sales which may well be compensated for by a much stronger December sales performance.

The slowing in the growth rate was mainly influenced by the department stores and grocery industries. Current trends in the grocery industry show a rapid slowing in what has been a relatively stable industry over the past year. Department stores appear at this stage to have lost the growth momentum observed around the middle of 1991. Clothing and fabric stores are showing no growth while hotels, licensed clubs and liquor stores remain in decline. 'Other' food stores have maintained a moderate to strong rate of growth.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

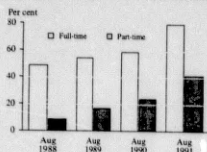
	Original value in November 1991 \$ million	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended November 1991	12 months ended November 1991
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2,299	0.4	0.6
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	995	-0.9	-0.5
Department and general stores	935	0.6	0.4
Clothing and fabrics stores	575	0.0	0.2
Other food stores (excluding butchers)	538	0.7	0.6
Electrical stores	427	-0.2	-0.4
Pharmacies	341	-1.6	0.8
Newsagents	271	0.2	0.5
Other industries	1,673	n.a.	n.a.
<i>All industries</i>	<i>8052</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>0.4</i>

The most striking feature of the State estimates is an apparent and rapid slowing down in the growth rate for New South Wales, as shown in the table below.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER
Percentage change in State trend estimates

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	Aust.
1991—								
July	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3	1.4	0.3	1.0	0.8
August	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.4	1.2	0.2	1.2	0.7
September	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.4	0.9	-0.2	1.4	0.6
October	0.2	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.6	-0.3	1.2	0.4
November	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.1	0.3	-0.5	1.0	0.2

EMPLOYEES COVERED BY SUPERANNUATION



Four in five workers now covered by super

The number of employees reporting that they were covered by superannuation was 4,870,500 or 79 per cent of all employees in July 1991. This estimate includes those employees covered by schemes other than those arranged or provided by their current employers.

Employees who received superannuation coverage as an employment benefit in their main job numbered 4,457,900 or 72 per cent of all employees. In August 1988, this figure stood at 42 per cent, rising to 53 per cent in August 1990 before the even steeper rise last year. The proportion of female employees receiving a superannuation benefit in respect of their main job was 66 per cent, compared with 77 per cent of males.

The proportion of full-time employees receiving a superannuation benefit rose from 60 per cent in August 1990 to 80 per cent in July 1991. Of employees working part-time, 42 per cent received a superannuation benefit, compared with 25 per cent in 1990.

The rise reflects both increased provision of superannuation by employers following National Wage Case Decisions, together with increased awareness among employees of the benefits now provided by their employers.

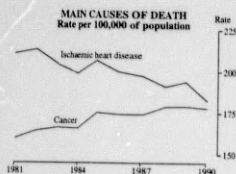
EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
Percentage of employees receiving benefits in main job

	Working full-time		Working part-time		All employees	
	1988	1991	1988	1991	1988	1991
Holiday leave	92	92	31	33	82	80
Sick leave	92	92	31	33	81	80
Superannuation	49	80	10	42	42	72
Long-service leave	74	78	23	25	65	67
Goods or services	15	17	15	19	15	18
Transport	18	21	6	5	16	17
Telephone	10	10	4	3	9	9
Holiday expenses	4	5	1	1	4	4
Medical	4	4	1	1	3	4
At least one benefit	96	97	55	66	89	91

The receipt of benefits varied by size of location (employees) and type of benefit. For example, the proportion of full-time employees receiving a long-service leave benefit increased as the size of the business (number of employees) increased. Of those people working at locations with less than ten employees, 51 per cent received a long-service leave benefit whereas 93 per cent of those working at locations with 100 or more employees received a long-service leave benefit.

On the other hand, a transport benefit was received by 29 per cent of full-time employees working at locations with less than 10 employees compared with 16 per cent of those working at locations with 100 or more employees.

Heart disease just beats cancer as largest killer



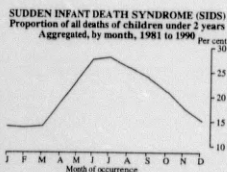
Ischaemic heart disease and cancer were the two leading causes of death in 1990. Together they accounted for approximately 51 per cent of the 120,062 deaths registered in Australia during the year.

Although the death rate from ischaemic heart disease (i.e. disease arising from local obstacles to the arterial flow) showed a decrease in 1990 compared with 1989, down from 194 to 182 per 100,000 of population, it continued to be the main cause of death overall. However for males, the main cause of death in 1990 was malignant neoplasms (17,311 deaths), just ahead of ischaemic heart disease (17,186 deaths).

The most notable decreases in the death rates between 1989 and 1990 were in the respiratory diseases class. Deaths from pneumonia and influenza were down from 14 to 11 per 100,000 of population and for other respiratory diseases (including asthma, emphysema and bronchitis) from 43 to 36 deaths per 100,000 of population.

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH, 1990

Cause of death	Number of deaths	Death rate per 100,000 population	Percentage of total deaths
Ischaemic heart disease	31,174	182	26.0
Cancer	30,464	178	25.4
Stroke	12,085	71	10.1
Respiratory diseases (other than pneumonia and influenza)	6,121	36	5.1
Accidents	5,204	30	4.3
Pneumonia and influenza	1,797	11	1.5
Other	33,217	—	Not applicable —
All causes	120,062	703	100.0



For children under two years old, approximately 20 per cent of deaths were attributed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in 1990. Information available suggests that SIDS peaks in the months of June and July.

For further information, order the publications *Causes of Death, Australia* (3303.0) and *Perinatal Deaths, Australia* (3304.0), or contact Peter Petryk on (06) 252 6310.

Imports in brief ...

Merchandise imports for November 1991 fell by \$78 million to \$4,636 million, a decrease of 2 per cent compared with October 1991. The main contributors to this decrease were:

- ☐ petroleum products, down 18 per cent to \$219 million;
- ☐ miscellaneous manufactured articles, down 6 per cent to \$672 million;
- ☐ inorganic chemicals, down 41 per cent to \$50 million;
- ☐ road vehicles, down 8 per cent to \$411 million; and
- ☐ telecommunication equipment, down 16 per cent to \$182 million.

Source: *Foreign Trade, Australia: Merchandise Imports, November 1991* (5433.0).

Inquiries

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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23 January 1992

All the week's releases: 15 to 21 January

General

Publications Advice, 17 January 1992 (1105.0; free)
Publications Advice, 21 January 1992 (1105.0; free)
Statistics Weekly, 16 January 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
Economic Indicators, Vic., December 1991 (1307.2; \$6.50)
Economic Indicators, Qld, January 1992 (1307.3; \$6.50)
Northern Territory Business Indicators, January 1992 (1307.7; \$5.00)

Demography

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., September Qtr 1991 (3402.0; \$14.00)
Demography, Qld, 1990 (3311.3; \$25.00) — *new issue*
Deaths, Qld, 1990 (3312.3; \$14.00) — *new issue*
Demography, ACT, 1990 (3311.8; \$16.00)

Social statistics

Inventory of Australian Health Data Collections, 1991 (4320.0; \$35.00) — *new issue*

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Foreign Trade, Aust., Merchandise Imports, November 1991 (5433.0; \$9.50)
Foreign Trade, Aust., Exports, 1990-91 (5436.0; \$60.00)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., December 1991, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)
The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, December 1991 (6271.0; \$65.00)
Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., November 1991 (6312.0; \$11.00)
Industrial Disputes, Aust., September 1991 (6321.0; \$10.00)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., November 1991 (6415.0; \$10.50)
The Labour Force, NSW, November 1991 (6201.1; \$14.50)

Agriculture

Summary of Crops, NSW, 1989-90 (7330.1; \$25.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Building Materials and Fittings, November 1991 (8361.0; \$8.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Transport Equipment, November 1991 (8363.0; \$6.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Energy Products, November 1991 (8368.0; \$6.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Wood and Wood Products, November 1991 (8369.0; \$6.00)
Retail Trade, Aust., November 1991 (8501.0; \$10.50)
Tourist Accommodation, Aust., September Qtr 1991 (8635.0; \$20.00)
Tourist Accommodation, NSW, September Qtr 1991 (8635.1; \$20.00)
Building Approvals, Qld, November 1991 (8731.3; \$10.50)
Building Activity, Tas., September Qtr 1991 (8752.6; \$10.50)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 4 February 1992

- 22** Import Price Index, Australia, October 1991 (6414.0; \$8.00)
- 23** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, November 1991 (5609.0; \$10.50)
- 28** Export Price Index, Australia, November 1991 (6405.0; \$8.00)
Manufacturing Production, Australia, December 1991, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, December 1991, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)
- 29** Consumer Price Index, December Quarter 1991 (6401.0; \$11.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, November 1991 (6408.0; \$8.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, November 1991 (6411.0; \$10.50)
- 30** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, November 1991 (6407.0; \$10.50)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, November 1991 (6412.0; \$10.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
21 January 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (June qtr 91)*	-11.2	-23.6	-5.8	20.1	0.1	-31.8	n.a.	n.a.	-9.5
Retail turnover (Nov. 91) (trend estimate)	4.7	3.4	5.2	3.7	7.0	1.8	n.a.	13.7	4.4
New motor vehicle registrations (Nov. 91)† (a)	-10.5	-13.2	-10.0	-12.8	9.9	-15.0	-9.9	-21.5	-9.6
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Nov. 91)	-10.3	-13.2	27.2	-19.5	8.5	-0.6	123.2	33.1	0.6
Value of total building work done (Sept. qtr 91)	-10.1	-34.2	-7.1	-24.4	-18.7	8.6	-9.6	0.5	-17.2
Employed persons (Dec. 91)*	-2.6	-3.6	1.6	-4.3	-0.7	-3.3	3.8	0.1	-2.0
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 91)	2.8	3.9	3.3	4.1	1.9	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.3
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Aug. 91)	5.1	4.3	4.3	5.6	6.9	4.1	6.9	4.9	4.9
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Sept. qtr 91)	-0.9	2.2	11.4	-1.5	3.7	-1.0	0.4	-5.7	3.1

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.
(a) Refer to footnote (e) on next page.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally adjusted
December 1991



Key national indicators – consolidated to 21 January 1992

				Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
Period							
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	94,473	94,688	1.0	0.1
	— 1984-85 prices			62,900	63,396	-0.3	-1.9
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	6,231	6,475	-0.4	-15.3
	— 1984-85 prices			4,817	5,012	0.5	-13.5
Expected new capital expenditure			Three months to Dec. 91	7,056	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Nov. 91	8,051.6	7,714.3	-1.1	3.9
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	14,915.3	15,486.9	2.9	0.2
New motor vehicle registrations (e) (f)		no.	Nov. 91	41,815	42,074	5.2	-9.6
Dwelling unit approvals		"	Nov. 91	11,961	11,367	-4.5	4.2
Value of all building approvals		\$m		1,623	1,571	-16.1	-16.1
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	6,026	5,825	-8.2	-17.2
	— 1984-85 prices	"		3,828	3,701	-7.8	-16.8
Manufacturers' sales	— current prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	36,453	35,729	2.6	-0.3
	— 1984-85 prices	"		25,305	24,860	2.8	-0.8
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to Dec. 91	37,652	n.a.	n.a.	-5.0
Labour							
Employed persons		'000	Dec. 91	7,779.5	7,689.4	0.5	-2.0
Unemployment rate †		%	"	10.6	10.6	0.1	2.5
Participation rate †		"	"	64.0	63.3	0.3	-0.5
Job vacancies		'000	Nov. 91	24.9	25.8	2.8	-27.0
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.14	1.06	-9.7	-15.1
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 91	215.7	n.a.	0.6	3.3
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		Oct. 91	118.7	n.a.	0.3	-11.5
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0		Oct. 91	111.2	n.a.	0.1	-1.0
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Sept. qtr 91	2,982	2,841	21.2	-17.9
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	Aug. 91	567.70	n.a.	1.2	4.9
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †		% per annum	Oct. 91	8.70	n.a.	-0.85	-4.10
10-year Treasury bonds †		"		9.80	n.a.	-0.50	-3.55
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	Nov. 91	4,563	4,557	6.4	4.3
Imports of merchandise		"	"	4,613	4,585	9.6	7.9
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	-50	-28	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	-173	-243	-219.7	-62.0
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-1,556	-1,692	-23.2	-5.2
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 91	n.a.	99.7	-0.7	-4.6
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt		\$m	30 Sept. 91	133,480	n.a.	-1.6	3.5
Net foreign liabilities		"		182,282	n.a.	2.8	7.1
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
US\$	per \$A		Nov. 91	0.7864	n.a.	-0.9	1.5
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0			59.0	n.a.	-2.0	5.0
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million		June 91	17.3	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000		Oct. 91	216	215	-4.3	14.5

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) November 1991 is not strictly comparable with November 1990 due to the introduction by motor vehicle registration authorities of a more accurate identification and classification system. (f) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 22 January 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available. Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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